

**Figure 1.** A schematic diagram illustrating the experimental design. The figure shows two parallel horizontal timelines representing the duration of the study. The top timeline is labeled "Participant 1" and the bottom timeline is labeled "Participant 2". Both timelines start at a point labeled "Baseline". Following baseline, each participant undergoes a series of four treatment periods, each lasting 4 weeks. These periods are separated by 2-week washout periods. The treatments are indicated by colored bars above the timelines: red for the first period, blue for the second, green for the third, and yellow for the fourth. Below the timelines, there are labels for various assessments: "Pain assessment" (indicated by a vertical arrow pointing down), "Quality of life assessment" (indicated by a vertical arrow pointing up), and "Physical function assessment" (indicated by a vertical arrow pointing up). The assessments are performed at specific time points relative to the treatment and washout periods.

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